

Dated: July 1, 1999.

Linda Engelmeier,

Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Office of Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. 99-17795 Filed 7-12-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 070799I]

Application for Commercial Fisheries Exemption Under Section 118 of the Marine Mammal Protection Act

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Proposed collection; comment request.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)).

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before September 13, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Linda Engelmeier, Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 5327, 14th and Constitution Avenue NW, Washington DC 20230 (or via Internet at LEngelme@doc.gov).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument(s) and instructions should be directed to Vicki Cornish, Office of Protected Resources (F/PR2), Room 13700, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910, 301-713-2322, ext. 125.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

The Marine Mammal Protection Act prohibits the taking of marine mammals except under permit or exemption. Section 118 of the Act authorizes an exemption for commercial fisheries provided that fishers in Category I and II fisheries (those with the most likely interactions with marine mammals) to register for a certificate of exemption that will protect the fisher from

prosecution for violating the moratorium on the taking of marine mammals.

II. Method of Collection

Respondents must submit a form with a registration fee.

III. Data

OMB Number: 0648-0293

Form Number: None

Type of Review: Regular submission

Affected public: Business and other for-profit, individuals

Estimated Number of Respondents: 22,400

Estimated Time Per Response: 15 minutes

Estimated Total Annual Burden

Hours: 5,600

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: \$616,000

IV. Request for Comments

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden (including hours and cost) of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval of this information collection; they also will become a matter of public record.

Dated: July 1, 1999.

Linda Engelmeier,

Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Office of Chief Information Officer.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 070799H]

New England Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: The New England Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold a joint public meeting of its Research Steering and Experimental Fisheries Committee on July 29, 1999 to consider actions affecting New England fisheries in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ). Recommendations from this groups will be brought to the full Council for formal consideration and action, if appropriate.

DATES: The meeting will be held on July 29, 1999, at 9:30 a.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Council office,

5 Broadway, Saugus, MA 01960-1097; telephone: (781) 231-0422.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Paul J. Howard, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council; (781) 231-0422.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The committee will establish procedures, approve projects and forward recommendations concerning the one percent Total Allowable Catch (TAC) set-aside earmarked for sea scallop fishery research.

Although other issues not contained in this agenda may come before this group for discussion, in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during this meeting. Action will be restricted to those issues specifically listed in this notice.

Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Paul J. Howard (see **ADDRESSES**) at least 5 days prior to the meeting dates.

Dated: July 8, 1999.

Bruce C. Morehead,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 070799F]

North Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of a public meeting.